



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: Jian Qin et al.
Serial No.: 08/759,108
Filed: 2 December 1996
For: ABSORBENT COMPOSITION

Docket: 12,975
Group: 1505
Examiner: M. Reddick
Date: 12 January 1998

JAN 30 1998
RECEIVED

Amendment – Response A

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in response to the Office Action mailed 11 July 1997, the following amendments and remarks are submitted for your consideration.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Once Amended) An absorbent composition comprising a mixture of:

- a) an acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer having a pK_a between about 2 [to about] and 12 wherein the acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer comprises acidic functional groups and has at least about 50 molar percent of the acidic functional groups in free acid form; and
- b) a basic material;

wherein the absorbent composition exhibits [an] a Free Swell value that is at least about 15 grams per gram of absorbent composition and a Time to Reach 60 Percent of Free Swell Capacity value of at least about 5 minutes.

Claim 2. (Once Amended) The absorbent composition of Claim 1 wherein the acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer has a pK_a between about 2 [to about] and 10.